

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-11 are pending. Claims 1-8 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice or surrender of the subject matter contained therein.

The Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of claims 9-11.

Claims 1-8 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,542,604 to Blon et al. in view of the Examiner's statement of what was known by a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. Claims 1-8 and 12 have been canceled, thus the rejection is rendered moot.

CONCLUSION

Each and every point raised in the Office Action dated August 24, 2004 has been addressed on the basis of the above amendments and remarks. In view of the foregoing it is believed that claims 9-11 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

